

## NEWS OF THE FIGHTERS

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**FITZSIMMONS - GARDNER CONTEST  
ATTRACTS ATTENTION.**

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**Tommy Ryan May Be Sincere in His**

**Desire to Fight Root—Joe Grim Examined by Physicians.**

Bob Fitzsimmons is now in California preparing for his fight with George Gardner Nov. 25. He has decided to do his training near San Francisco, where the bracing ocean breeze will freshen him up and furnish enlivening surroundings. The lucky Irishman now weighs considerably less than 180 pounds stripped, and with nearly a month in which to take off twelve pounds he says it is a cinch. Fitzsimmons cannot see that Gardner figures in the dope at all as a winner, and looks upon himself as the surest of good things. Gardner has been a champion now for weeks and is very confident of winning the coming fight. Fitzsimmons is picked as the winner and a few bets have been laid at 2 to 1 odds on him. Many Eastern men who have followed Gardner's ring career believe that the Lowell man will give the former champion one of the hardest fights of his career, and that he does not win will cause Fitz to realize that a hard battle was fought. The

is the most important fight on the schedule for the near future, and fast followers consequently will have little to divide their attention. Fitzsimmons and Gardner will fight for the light heavy-weight championship, a title that Gardner won when he defeated Jack Root.

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If Tommy Ryan, middle-weight champion, is sincere in his desire to get on a match with Jack Root, of Chicago, there

should be little trouble in getting the men together, as such a battle would attract considerable interest and a suitable purse could be secured. Ryan has made so many threats to agree to meet some good man

that the public will not take him seriously until his forfeit is up and articles signed for an encounter with Root. Ryan might agree to take on a fourth-rater and pick up easy money, but when it comes to meeting a man who has a chance to defeat him or give him a hard fight Ryan has a way of his own of crawling out of the match. It will be remembered that he threatened to give Fitzsimmons a fight and also Philadelpha man O'Neil has a chance to defeat him as many as the holes in a piece of swiss cheese.

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Joe Grim, the Philadelphia freak, is being taken too seriously by the New York and

Boston sports that the knowing ones are forced to smile. Grim has been examined by physicians galore since going to New York and some of their reports make funny reading. One doctor says that the reason

Why Grin has not been knocked out is that he is lacking in brain. In other words, that he has not brains enough to be knocked out. Another doctor says the Italian is lacking in sympathetic nerve and that there are sympathetic nerves on his jaw to be affected by a punch that would knock out other pugilists. It is also stated that his stomach is so strong that he can take any punch in the middle region. The fact is that Grin has been beaten several times in his recent contests, given such a terrific amount of punishment and has not been hurt. The only explanation is that the palmy days Charley Johnson took more punishment on the jaws and stomach in one fight than Grin has received in all his contests in which he has taken part. Grin does not know how to hit, but he has acquired the knack of being hit. He is a coward, and strange as it may seem, is one of the hardest men to hit now in the ring. It is almost impossible to keep him from dodging and dancing away every time an opponent sets himself for a hard punch. He is sharp and cunning—just the opposite of dumb.

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Promoters of boxing in St. Louis evidently look for a boom in the pugilistic line next year in connection with the world's

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